



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol Bldg.
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol Bldg.
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner:

Over the course of the last 18 months, the price of gasoline has soared over 60%, to a nationwide average of \$4.00 per gallon and climbing. Diesel fuel used to transport goods with our trucks and over railroads is approaching \$5.00 per gallon. These fuel prices threaten the standard of living of every American; driving up prices for everything from a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk to a new refrigerator. Low-income families and seniors living on a fixed income are bearing a particularly difficult burden in coping with the price jumps.

I am writing today to urge both of you to set partisan politics aside and work together to schedule consideration by the full House legislation to materially increase the supply of American produced energy and thereby lower prices. We need an American Energy Action Plan to explore, diversify, and conserve our own energy resources.

If we are to truly bring down prices on gas and goods and services, the House must consider legislation to accomplish the following:

1. Stop the embargo on American oil and permit drilling for the hundreds of billions of barrels of oil in the United States. Other nations are drilling off of our coasts in areas where US companies are blocked from exploring. We need to take the handcuffs off of oil production in the USA and take sizeable steps to increase supply. Most members of Congress agreed that supply does matter when we voted to stop putting oil in the strategic petroleum reserves. And yet that only adds 70,000 barrels of oil per day, less than 1/10 of 1% of the world's daily use of oil. There are hundreds of billions of barrels of oil off the Atlantic coast, Gulf coast, pacific coast, the Colorado Shale oil and northern Alaska . Certainly, we can find the political will to allow the extraction of these vital resources while also providing for strict rules to protect the environment.
2. Incentivize the research, development and construction of new Super Clean coal fired power plants, both to replace aging plants and to expand output to meet future demand without relying on foreign energy. This would include expanded funding for federal research facilities such as the National Energy Technology Labs.
3. Increase funding for research and development into next generation technologies to expand future production of affordable energy, e.g. hydrogen and natural gas fuel

cell technology. Again, National Energy Technology Labs should be utilized to the full potential of research capabilities.

4. Speed the licensing and construction of zero emission nuclear plants, complete the construction of safe disposal sites for plant waste and permit nuclear plants to recycle their fuel to thus eliminate the need for future storage of spent fuels. France, lacking any significant oil or coal reserves, depends almost entirely on nuclear energy to meet their domestic electricity needs. The irony is that those French plants were built using U.S. designs formulated by Westinghouse, based in Pittsburgh. Using our technology, they have produced this electricity and safely disposed of the spent fuels without incident for over 30 years.
5. Permanently extend existing tax credits and preferences for the deployment of alternative energies. Our failure to make tax credits for wind, solar, and other forms of alternative energy permanent have hampered investment in these energy sources. Congress should act to make these programs permanent to remove uncertainty from the financial markets and unleash private investment.
6. Emphasize energy conservation in transportation legislation through priority funding of efficient and accessible public transit projects, and fuel efficient vehicles.

There are just a few of the programs and ideas which would begin the important process of increasing the supply of energy and reducing demand and prices. There are many other areas which we should examine, so this list is by no means meant to be exhaustive.

Further, I hope Congress will bring to this project the same urgency which families in my district and across this country are facing as they struggle to meet the ever increasing cost of daily life. Because of the long lead-time that energy projects require, and because this will have long lasting impact upon our citizens and their jobs, America must approach this effort with a commitment that exceeds the Apollo project of the 1960's. We need a comprehensive bipartisan American Energy Action Plan that can give Americans hope in both the present and for the future of their family budgets.

Ultimately, we must agree on some basic principles to address our energy crisis. These are (1) the need for more environmentally sound exploration and production, (2) diversification of our supply away from any one source of energy, (3) conservation of existing supply, and (4) innovation to develop new, affordable supplies of energy.

We deserve strong and effective leadership at challenging times like this. Unless and until Congress demonstrates a real commitment to energy independence, we will continue to see jobs, dollars and control of our national security go overseas – often times to nations which are openly hostile to our interests and way of life.

I look forward to working with you both in a bipartisan way to solve this crisis in the weeks and months ahead.

America is counting on us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Murphy". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Murphy" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress